

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 080985

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APPROVED BY IO:RREIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2410

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080985

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BRUSSELS CANBERRA BONN OSLO LONDON
PARIS ROME VIENNA TOKYO INFO THE HAGUE TEL AVIV TUNIS FROM
SECSTATE WASHDC 09 APR 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080985

PARIS ALSO FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: PLO SEEKING PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS AT UNESCO

REF: STATE 078428; PARIS 8411; PARIS 8496; PARIS 6554

(ALL NOTAL)

1. TUNISIANS AT UNESCO REPORTED SEEKING CO-SPONSORS FOR
NEW AGENDA ITEM AT MAY 5 EXBD MEETING OF UNESCO, WHICH
WOULD GRANT PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS AT UNESCO HEAD-
QUARTERS. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
WERE AMENDED IN OCTOBER 1974 SO THAT THE PLO MAY ALREADY
SEND OBSERVERS TO ALL UNESCO MEETINGS. PLO SAID TO FFF;
THIS NEW REQUEST FOR GREATER
"OFFICIAL STANDING" IS A STEP IN THEIR PURSUIT OF INDE-
PENDENT RECOGNITION AND ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA MIDDLE EAST
CONFERENCE.

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 080985

2. USG OPPOSES ANY SUCH MOVE TO GRANT PLO INCREASED STATUS AT UNESCO AT THIS TIME. NOT ONLY WOULD THIS BE COMPLICATING FACTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS BUT WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL ADVERSE IMPACT ON CONGRESS WHICH, IN WAKE OF UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE SUSPENSION OF FUNDING FOR PROJECTS IN ISRAEL, SUSPENDED US CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO UNTIL SITUATION RECTIFIED. ANY FURTHER ACTION IN UNESCO WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL WOULD ONLY INCREASE ALREADY CRITICAL ATTITUDE OF US PUBLIC AND CONGRESS TOWARD ORGANIZATION.

3. DEPT HAS REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION FROM PERMDEL UNESCO ON BEST METHODS OF OPPOSING THIS ACTION AND THEIR ASSESSMENT OF OTHER DELEGATIONS REACTIONS.

4. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO (A) EXPRESS AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO THIS MOVE FOR PLO PERMANENT STATUS AT UNESCO EMPHASIZING EFFECT THAT ANOTHER OBVIOUSLY POLITICAL ACTION WOULD HAVE ON US SUPPORT FOR UNESCO AT DIFFICULT TIME WHEN US CONGRESS HAS SUSPENDED ALL FUNDING FOR UNESCO; (B) SUGGEST THAT EXBD STICK WITH SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITHIN ITS COMPETENCE AND AVOID FURTHER MOVES TOWARD POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS WHICH COULD TEAR ORGANIZATION APART; (C) SEEK VIEWS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS ON WHAT EFFECT PLO ACTION BY EXBD WILL HAVE IN THEIR COUNTRIES, MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS TO PREVENT OR DEFEAT TUNISIAN INITIATIVE, THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE LEAD OR PLAY A ROLE IN DEVELOPING AN APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM, AND ANY SUGGESTIONS ON STRATEGY THEY MAY HAVE, DEALING WITH ENTIRE SCOPE OF ISRAELI RELATED PROBLEMS IN UNESCO AND HOW TO INSURE FUTURE OF ORGANIZATION.

5. INFORMATION ASAP FROM ADDRESSEE POSTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STRATEGY WILL BE APPRECIATED. WHEN STRATEGY DETERMINED FURTHER DEMARCHES WITH OTHER EXBD MEMBERS WILL BE MADE AS APPROPRIATE. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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